Mangotsfield School
Rodway Hill
Mangotsfield
Bristol
BS16 9LH
Tel: 01454 862700
E: man-info@cset.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Hetty Blackmore

18th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your ongoing support during the uncertainty of school closures linked to the recent strike action. Last Friday we were informed of the proposed dates for strike action. The Trust and secondary school headteachers met the local NEU Industrial Organiser and the secondary school NEU reps on Wednesday and had a very positive meeting. Our CEO drafted an offer which was delivered to the reps on Thursday, they have agreed to take it to their members, cancelling the strike on Monday to allow time for the meetings to occur. Whether further strike days will take place is still uncertain but I remain very hopeful that the five remaining dates can be avoided and will keep you updated as soon as we have further information.

As always there has been so much to be proud of at school this week. From watching Year 7 working so hard, to being able to hear a pin drop in the extra maths mentoring for Year 11, to the 130 Year 11 students who arrived on time for an 8am start to Morning Meetings last week to the Year 9 Girls' Football victory on Wednesday and finally to celebrating two of our very own staff as they are nominated for national TA of the year! Please read on to find out more and also to understand the changes to Free School Meal funding which could impact you.

Love Learning

Tuesday morning saw the launch of the First Give project for Year 8. This will be the seventh year in which we have run the project and across these years a huge number of charities have benefited from the work done by our students. With the First Give project, students in their mentor groups will be picking a local charity that means something to them. Once chosen the students will then plan a piece of social action to raise awareness and sponsorship for the charity. The project will then culminate in a whole year group assembly where one group from each mentor group will present to 3 visitors and the rest of their peers with the best presentation and social action winning a £1000 donation to the charity of their choice. This project is an amazing opportunity for students to lead a project of their own choosing and really have a positive impact on their community.

Challenge

We currently have twenty Year 11 students completing their final Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They left school yesterday, walked for over seven hours and ended up at a campsite near Monmouth. Part of the challenge is to then camp overnight after cooking themselves a hot meal. Today, they are completing a further seven hour walk and camp tonight, before heading home after another trek tomorrow. This is no mean feat and a challenge of physical and mental resilience. I was very relieved to hear that there were no blisters at the end of day 1 when I checked in last night.

Let's see how they have fared today!

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Community

Earlier in the week the Year 8 and Year 9 girls football team travelled down to Weston Super Mare to take on Worle Community School. A tremendous performance from the whole team resulted in a 9-0 win against a Worle side who did not give up despite the ever increasing scoreline. All the players put in notable performances and it is great to see this team really coming together. There was a hat-trick for Alice G who was very upset not to leave with the match ball as tradition would usually dictate. Attacking football was on show throughout the game with everyone linking together and putting into practice things that have been worked on in training. A great result for a great team.

Respect

Last week, we had a visit from George Linley at Teaching Personnel to present Sophia Darbyshire and Jackson Perry with certificates and a small gift to acknowledge their nomination for the National TA of the Year Award. Both were nominated for their continued hard work supporting our SEND students. Sophia's nomination described her as "a massive ray of sunshine" with "amazing patience and compassion, who goes above and beyond to ensure all students feel seen." Jackson was praised for being "brilliant at building relationships with students, using humour to break down barriers and connect." Congratulations and thank you to Sophia and Jackson!

Changes to Free School Meals Funding

From September 2026, the Government has expanded eligibility for Free School Meals so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit can now apply. There are now two categories: **Targeted FSM**, for households on Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less (which also brings extra support such as Pupil Premium funding and access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme), and **Expanded FSM**, for households on Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400. If your family's circumstances have changed, or you think you may now be eligible under the new rules, please don't assume you're automatically covered — you will still need to apply. Applications for South Gloucestershire families are made online via the South Gloucestershire Portal, where eligibility is checked instantly and the school notified directly. If you need help with the online application, the Council's Contact Centre can assist on 01454 868008. We'd encourage all eligible families to apply promptly, as this also brings valuable additional funding into the school.

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School Open Evening Reminder

We are holding our school open evening on Thursday 24th September which means it will be a half day closing at 12.30pm for all students. If your child/children usually get picked up could you please make provisions for them to be collected at the earlier time. The Pucklechurch transport has been re-arranged and will be at the school ready to pick up at 12.30pm.

Thank you for all your support for the strong start to term.

Yours faithfully

Hetty Blackmore
Headteacher

Key Dates:

- **Sunday 20th September - FOM Car Boot Sale**
- **Thursday 24th September - School Open Evening (school closes at 12.30)**
- **Friday 2nd October - INSET day - school is closed for students**
- **Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th October - All Years flu vaccinations**
- **Thursday 8th October - Meet the Mentor Y7-Y11 (school closes at 12.30)**

Important Links:

School Website - Online Careers Noticeboard

Did you know that we have a fantastic 'Careers Notice Board' on our website which contains all the information you need relating to careers, work experience etc. Please take a look here.

School Website - Multilingual Family Noticeboard

The school has a fabulous noticeboard to do with all things multilingual. If you would like to find out more information please take a look at via this LINK

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School Nurse Support - In School

We want to make you aware that every Wednesday lunchtime we will be having a school nurse based in the Family Support Worker's office in E block. Should your child wish to access support linked to their mental health and wellbeing please encourage them to drop in. Please see an introduction to our school nurse below:

"Hello everyone! My name is Joe, and I am delighted to be supporting Mangotsfield School as the School Nurse. I offer a drop-in clinic every Wednesday lunchtime for any student who would like support, advice, or information. Young people can come and talk about a wide range of topics, including physical health, emotional wellbeing, friendships, school worries, healthy lifestyles, or any other concerns they may have. My aim is to provide a friendly, non-judgemental space where students feel comfortable seeking help and support when they need it. I look forward to getting to know the school community and supporting your young people throughout the year."

Mangotsfield School Community Hub

We have a fabulous welcoming space called the Community Hub here at school. The space is here to provide support, help and advice to all Mangotsfield families. Please see the flyer for further information.

Please note the opening times during the October half term will be released further.

Watch this space!

Friends of Mangotsfield **We need YOUR help!**

We're now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started! You can find our easyfundraising page here: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mangotsfieldschool

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Mangotsfield Secondary School

Website